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Panchayati Raj

JANUARY 1965

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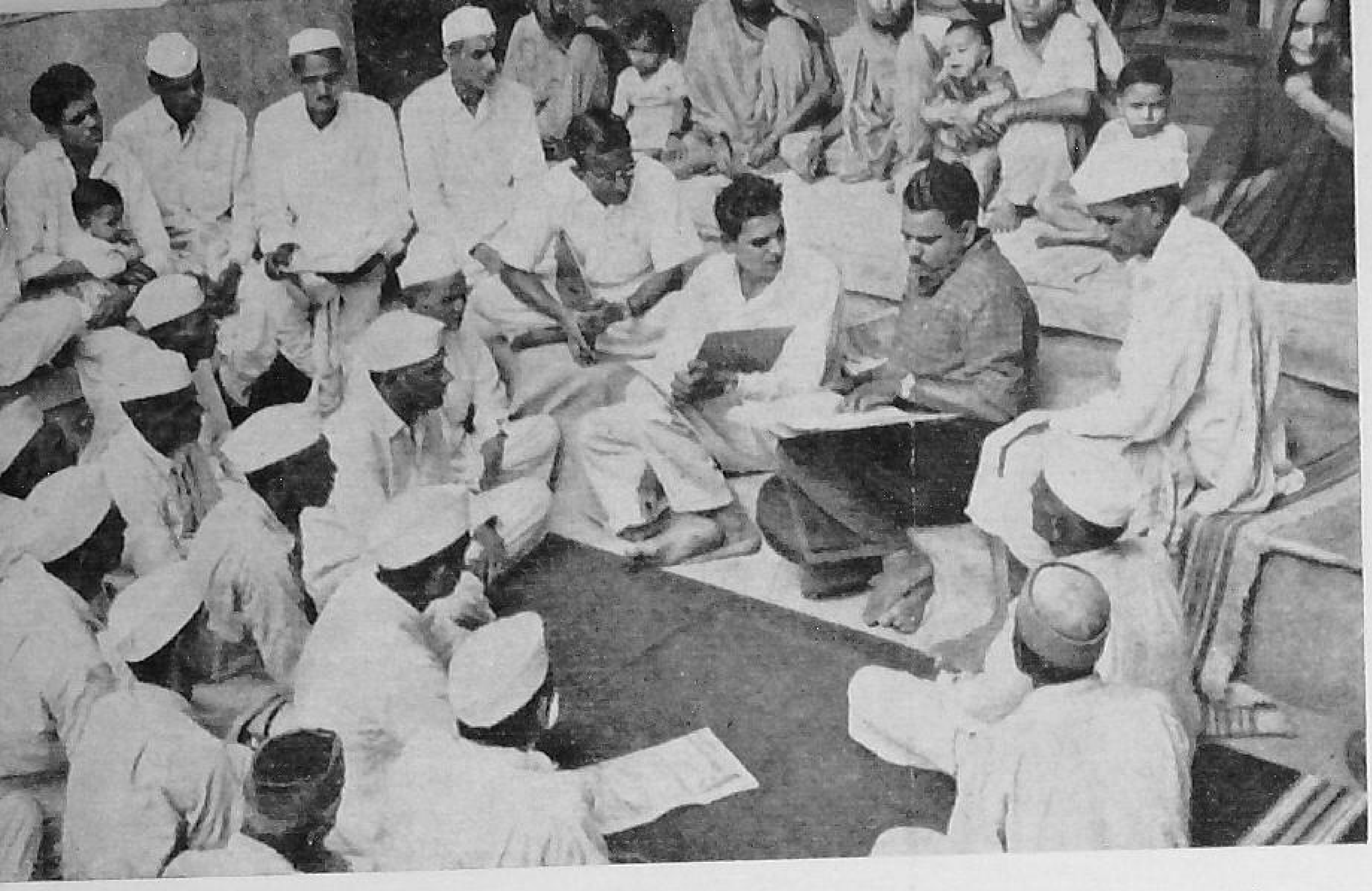
A village girl whose father has a poultry farm poses with one of the birds.



A village meeting, attended by the B.D.O. and Sarpanch, discusses plans for increasing agricultural production.

Grow More Food

Japanese method of rice cultivation in a Package Programme area

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EDITOR : A. P. SHOME

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LETTERS

WASTE OF MANPOWER

Sir,

THE DECISION to award merit scholarships to the best Gram Sevaks and Gram Sevikas in the country to enable them to prosecute higher studies in Rural Institutes and Agricultural Universities has been welcomed by all. The main aim of the scheme is to equip ground-level workers adequately for the tasks ahead, to offer them the scope for promotion and to reward them for their devoted work for the betterment of the rural community. But, unfortunately, the specialised experience of the beneficiaries of the scheme have not been properly utilized, and best use has not been made of their training in these institutions. A look at the courses of study offered by these institutions and the subsequent use made of the successful candidates will clarify the position.

The studies in the Rural Institutes are spread over a period of three years, after a year's preparatory course. One has to take up, besides the compulsory subjects, one of the optional subjects like Cooperation, Public Administration, Village Industries, Home Science, etc., before one finally qualifies. The syllabuses of optional subjects have been framed with a view to imparting an integrated approach—both in theory and practice—to the trainees. The stress on the optional subjects is in no way less than that on the compulsory ones, so that those who pass out of these institutions can be gainfully utilized in subjects in which they have specialized. But, that is not what happens in most cases. Instances are not wanting of successful Gram Sevaks, who have obtained the Diploma in Rural Services, with Cooperation as an optional subject, being promoted as Panchayat Extension Officers. Similarly, many who have specialized in Public Administration have found themselves functioning as Cooperation Extension Officers. Such instances can be multiplied. This waste of talent does no credit to the C.D. Programme. It is, therefore, necessary to make a proper assessment of a candidate's training and aptitude before he is assigned to any job. This will ensure a judicious and economic utilization of trained man-power which is so scarce these days.

8.12.1964.
Pollibeta,
Coorg.

Yours etc.,
C. M. Medappa,
Gram Sevak

(*Continued on page 4*)

INDIA'S BEST VILLAGE

Cotton plucking by women in Dapora village (MP)

UNTIL about a decade ago, Dapora was one of the many villages that dotted the countryside—a virtual backwater where people lived in poverty and want; where men, women and children were born and died without any hope of improving their condition; where human beings accepted their fate in utter submission.

That was the picture until October 1952, when the C.D. Programme was launched in a few villages in India. Soon the programme gathered momentum and swept across the length and breadth of rural India, awakening the masses from their age-long torpor. The concept of Community Development caught the imagination of men and women everywhere. A new burst of energy seemed to be let loose and people put their shoulders to the wheel in a massive effort towards rural development. Soon the impact of the programme came to be felt as prosperity began to return to the countryside. Year after year, additional areas were brought under the C.D. programme.

MAGIC TOUCH OF C.D.

Dapora village in the East Nimar District of Madhya Pradesh is one among them, and like many thousands of villages in the country, it has prospered from the magic touch of the C.D. programme. Then suddenly this year, Dapora hit the headlines when it was adjudged the best village in the country and awarded first prize in the "All-India Best Village Competition" for 1963-64. And, to crown it all, the Gram Sevak of the village, Shri N. R. Patil, won second place in the National Competition for the best village-level worker. The obscure village of yesterday has come into its own by hard work and the united effort of the people.

Dapora, with an area of 700 acres, is a small village, which suffered from all the handicaps of small rural communities elsewhere—a growing population, impoverished land, primitive methods of cultivation, and the people divided among themselves. The outlook was bleak and the living standards were horribly poor. When the C.D. programme was launched in the area the sceptics scoffed and the people were generally indifferent. But the Block Development Officer and his colleagues, especially the devoted Gram Sevak, Shri N. R. Patil, went on undaunted. By slow stages, at first, the people began to change their views until eventually the outlook of the village people underwent a remarkable transformation. This tiny village, haunted by out-dated traditions and superstitions and divided by petty squabbles joined in the task of reconstruction with rare spirit and determination. Soon the results of their united efforts were to be seen in various aspects of life in the village. The high watermark of achievement and fulfilment was reached last year when the village was adjudged the best in the country.

INCOME DOUBLED

Dapora has travelled a long way since those early months of the C.D. programme. Its achievements can be seen in complete terms : the newly constructed building of the higher secondary school and the broad electrified roads greet a visitor today. Pucca drains on either side of the road and the clean, neat little houses in a row give the village a pleasing

appearance and leave a lasting impression on the visitor. But the achievements of the village have been more marked in the field of agriculture which has brought in its wake unprecedented prosperity to the people. From an annual income of less than Rs. 8 lakhs before the introduction of the C.D. programme, the annual income of the village is now about Rs. 15 lakhs.

This prosperity is shared by 400 families which live in the village and enjoy many of the modern amenities which are still beyond the reach of less fortunate rural communities. For instance, approximately half the number of families in the village have their own radios or transistor sets and live in houses provided with electricity.

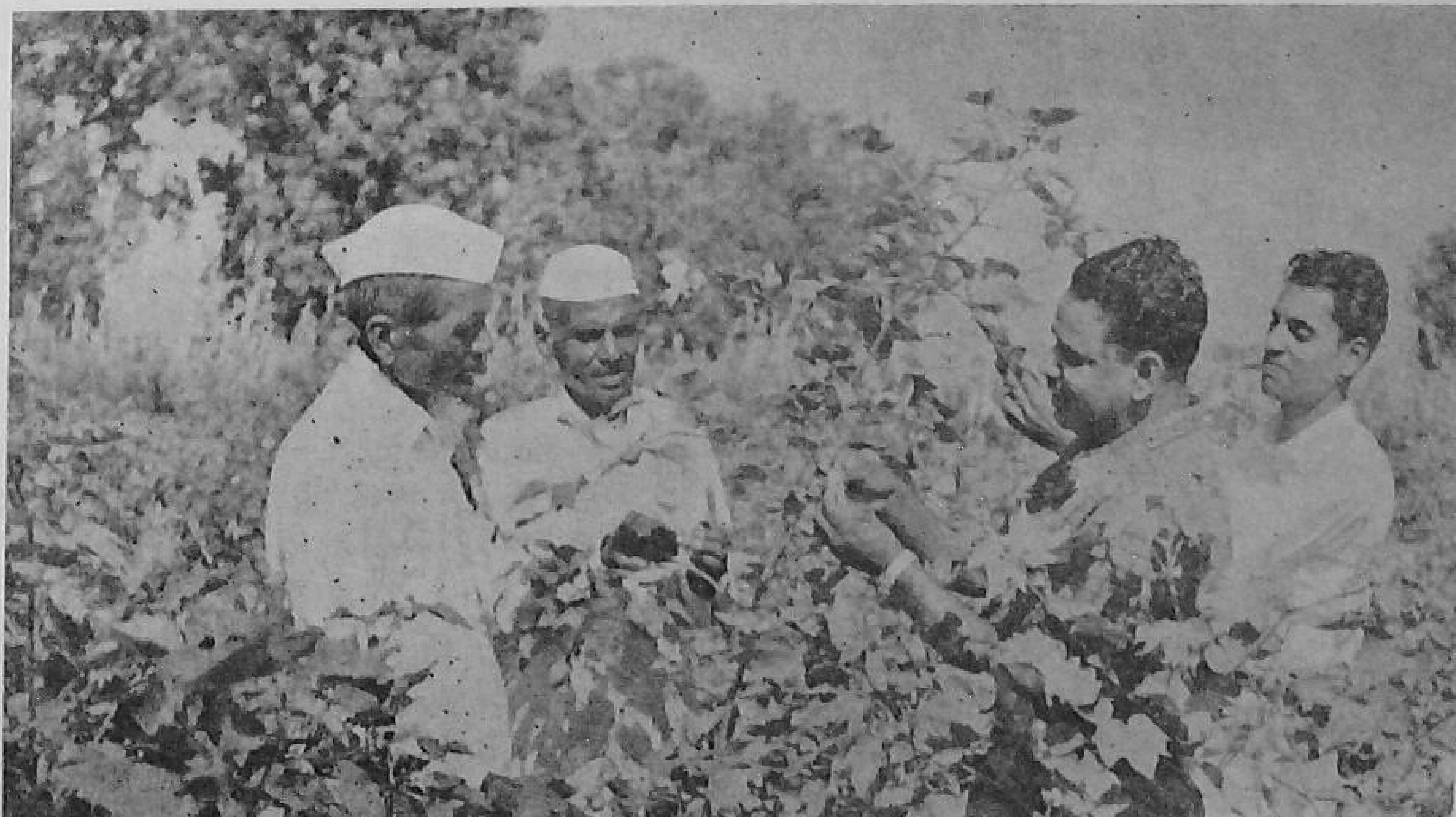
The transformation of agriculture in the village is indeed a significant achievement. The primitive methods of farming which the people had followed for generations have given way to more scientific ones. Improved seeds and the extensive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides have become the order of the day. The village which never had any irrigation facilities is now able to provide much-needed water to its parched fields. A large number of wells have been dug in the area which are fitted with power-driven pumps. The water from the wells is pumped into a number of reservoirs from where it is fed on to the fields. Water outlets have been fitted to channels through which the water flows and as soon as the reservoir is full the water is released from it to irrigate the fields. It may be mentioned that the pipes through which the water flows have been moulded in the village itself.

To solve the problem of providing drinking water to cattle, the farmers have pooled 12 acres of their land which has been given to a person who is responsible for serving drinking water to the entire livestock of the village. He in turn cultivates the land for his own benefit. The villagers have decided, however, to construct a well and fit a power-driven pump to obtain the necessary water to be stored in troughs for the cattle. The engine of the proposed pump will also run a flour mill and the income from the mill will be earmarked for the village panchayat.

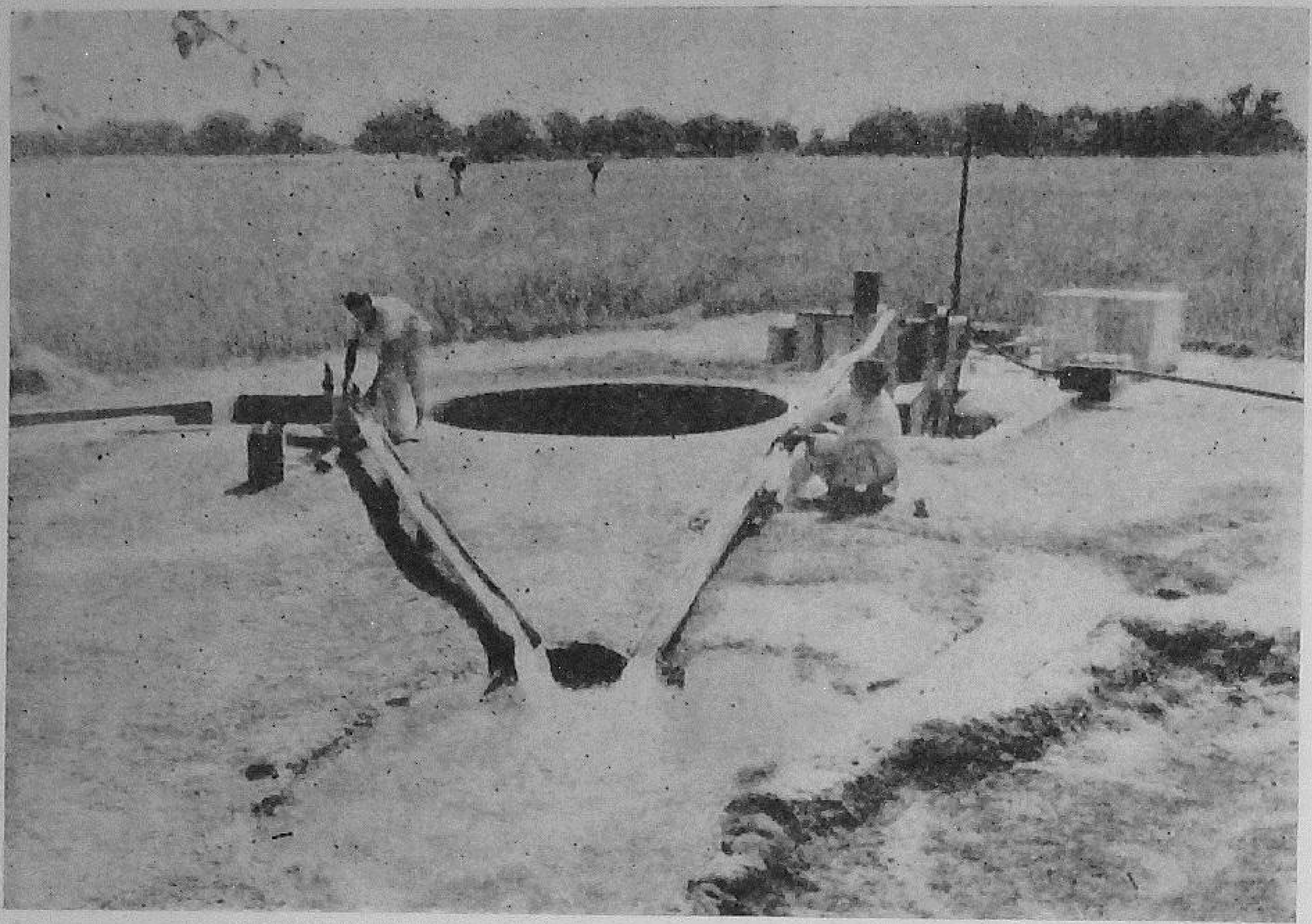
Shri N. R. Patil, the V.L.W. of Dapora (left), with the village Sarpanch

FRUIT CULTIVATION

Fruit cultivation has been undertaken in the village in a really big way. Already there are more than 35,000 orange and citrus (Mosambi) trees in the village which provide an income of about Rs. 5 lakhs per year. Cotton is also an important crop which brings in an income of Rs. 5 lakhs per year. In order to increase production, dania and onions are planted



The B.D.O., Sarpanch and Panchayat officials discuss plant protection measures in Dapora village.



A power-driven pump fitted to a village well for irrigation in Dapora

along with cotton crop and a substantial revenue is earned from them. The improvement in agriculture and the enrichment of the land is so remarkable that the price per acre of land in the village is approximately Rs. 5,000.

The story of Dapora will not be complete without due mention being made of the role of women of the village in the task of reconstruction. An estimated 600 women work in the fields. Many of them, even belonging to comparatively well-to-do families, often labour in the fields of their neighbours at harvest time. The Mahila Mandal of the village plays a prominent part in the life of the community.

But perhaps the most inspiring role in awakening the people of the village and making them work for their improvement has been played by the Village Panchayat. The Panchayat has not only succeeded in bringing the people together and channelising their efforts towards the improvement of the entire community but has brought about a complete change in their outlook.

The story of Dapora is an impressive one and the achievements of this small community in Madhya Pradesh is an example that will inspire other communities elsewhere to strive for a better, healthier and happier life.

LETTERS

(*Continued from page 1*)

PREVAILING CORRUPTION

Sir,

THE MANNER in which grants made by the Taluk Boards to farmers for the purchase of bullocks, cows, sheep, goats, and poultry etc. are bing utilized is most unsatisfactory; and unless this is checked the entire purpose of the grants will be lost. Taluk Boards every year distribute between Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 8,000 as grants for this purpose. The beneficiaries, have hit upon a novel method of circumventing the rules and using the money for other purposes. The farmers generally purchase the cattle, etc., from known persons, produce them before the Taluk Board for obtaining grants, and almost immediately sell them and use the money for other purposes. This defeats the purpose of the grant and leaves the farmer where he was.

I feel that the rules governing the grant should be more strict. At the same time, the breeds of livestock and poultry should be improved. This can be done if Taluk Boards purchase improved varieties of livestock and poultry from State cattle and poultry farms and make them available to people, instead of giving them a cash grant to make their own purchases. Besides, it is necessary to make it a rule that no one who receives cattle or poultry as a grant can sell it to anyone. This is absolutely essential to prevent misuse of Taluk Board funds and to improve the quality of cattle and poultry.

20.11.1964
Dharwar Distt.
Mysore State.

Yours etc.,
G. K. Potil,
Veterinary Officer

PANCHAYAT POSTAL SCHEME

Maharashtra Experiment

A NOVEL scheme to improve postal facilities in the rural areas, the only one in the country so far, is working successfully in Maharashtra. The scheme was introduced on an experimental basis on May 14 last year at six places in the Bombay Postal Circle. The focal point of the scheme is the village of Wada in the western region of Khed Taluka, which is served by a daily postal service.

About 20 villages round about Wada received mail only once a week; even though there were good roads in the area. Prosperity had come to these villages, largely due to the C.D. and other programmes in operation there; and a successful dairy programme had raised the standard of living of the people. The need for easy communication with friends and relatives living in Bombay and other cities in the State was keenly felt by the residents, who found the weekly delivery of mail and other postal articles unsatisfactory. Out of this strongly felt need, the Panchayat Postal Scheme was born.

For the purposes of the scheme, six centres have been set up at the Panchayat headquarters in the area. The mail is received daily at the Wada post office, from where postmen carry them to each of the six centres. Volunteers from each of the villages covered by the centre collect the mail meant for the village and, at the same time, hand over the outgoing mail for onward transmission to Wada. Thus the flow of mail in both directions is maintained by the joint efforts of volunteers and postal staff.

The moving spirit behind this two-way traffic is the Panchayat agency, which is responsible for keeping up the flow in both directions after the mail is received at the Wada post office. It is the responsibility of the Panchayats concerned to provide the voluntary workers who function as postmen. The volunteers work in rotation and receive no payment for their labours.

Another advantage of the scheme is that delays in the delivery of such postal articles as Money Orders, Registered articles and Value Payables, often due to the absence of the recipient at the time of the postman's visit and the difficulty of establishing the identity of the parties, have been obviated. Under the scheme, all such articles are delivered at the Panchayat postal centre after notice has been issued to the recipient, enabling him to take delivery at his convenience. Also, the problem of identification has been solved by ensuring that the postal staff, the Panchayat postal agent and the village agent are present at the same time, which makes identification easy.

The Panchayat Postal Scheme is yet another example of the growing awareness among the rural population of conveniences so long unavailable to them and their willingness to work unitedly for a better life. Wada and the surrounding villages—once a backwater far removed from the rest of the State—are today in the very heart of the country.

MAGIC OF THE PACKAGE PROGRAMME

The Story of Sahaban

(By Our Correspondent)

This is the story of Sahaban, one of the many villages in Ludhiana district of Punjab. For centuries, it was considered to be the poorest village in the neighbourhood. No father was willing to marry his daughter in the village lest she might have to starve. The 40 odd peasant families of Sahaban had sandy fields for their holdings ranging from four to fifty acres. The eternally thirsty land yielded only one crop, and all that a farmer could earn from his land in a whole year was not more than Rs. 200. This was before the intensive agricultural programme in Ludhiana district was launched.

The five year programme, popularly known as the "Package Programme", aims at more income and better standards of living for farmers through higher crop yields. It seeks to make use of modern scientific methods of farming and greater use of fertilizers, better seeds, pesticides and implements to improve crop yields. Loans and credits are extended to farmers for the purpose. Also technical assistance and financial help are extended to them to instal pumping sets and sink tubewells to irrigate the land.

FIELDS TURN INTO GOLD

Today, Sahaban presents an entirely different picture. The arid waste around the village has been turned into smiling fields of golden corn, thanks to the minor irrigation works that water the fields and the generous use of fertilizers. Sahaban can now boast of a dozen tractors and scores of tubewells for its 1,200 acres of land. Farmers, whose small holdings make it uneconomical to have a tractor, are pooling their resources to have one for collective use. Every farmer, with some land, now wants to own at least one tubewell. In one case, a tubewell has been sunk in a farm of about half an acre only.

PROUD FARMER

Among the farmers of Sahaban, seventy-three-year old Kartar Singh, is perhaps the proudest, with his three newly sunk diesel-operated tubewells. Standing beside one, this stately old man who was born in poverty and lived through hardship as he rung out a precarious living from the parched land, today speaks of the golden harvests that he has been reaping for the last three years. He was seventy years old when the Package Programme was first introduced in the village and the goddess Lakshmi smiled upon him. Since then he has added 20 acres to his family holding of 40 acres and the old mud house where he was born and reared has given way to a new brick house. And thanks to his growing prosperity he plans to build another for his growing family. His sons and daughters are receiving the best education. For them there is no more a life of ignorance and illiteracy. Today, they can look forward to better opening in the wide world.

Sahaban is no longer a byword for poverty; and the sons and daughters of the village are sought after by parents as prospective bridegrooms and brides.

Besides growing wheat, maize and paddy, Kartar Singh has introduced groundnuts and potatoes as new cash crops. He now raises two crops a year. In the fields nearest to his tubewells, he grows even three crops—wheat, fodder and maize, obtaining as much as 25 maunds of wheat per acre as compared with less than 12 maunds, when there was no irrigation facility.

Kartar Singh is still not satisfied, and his ambition is to produce 35 maunds, with the greater use of chemical fertilizers. With a beaming face Kartar Singh says, "Give us electricity and more fertilizers; and we turn your double-the-production slogan into reality."

In another village, Bahadarke, the number of tubewells has gone up from 4 to 24 in two years. Farmers there are ready to have over 30 more tubewells immediately, provided they get power. Even Moti Ram, the Harijan village watchman, is thinking of installing another tubewell. Moti Ram had no land until a few years ago; and he made his living by farming rented land. A few years ago, he bought four acres of barren, sandy land out of his meagre savings. It was a hard life until the Package Programme was introduced. But all that is changed. Today, he grows easily the best crop in the village. The sandy waste is a delight to watch with its lush green area rich with sugarcane and paddy.

What Sahaban has achieved in the past three years is something of a miracle. But it is not an exception because there are many other villages in Ludhiana district where remarkable results have been achieved. The magic wand of the Package Programme has transformed traditionally poor villages into centres of smiling plenty.

A view of the hybrid maize farm in Sahaban village in Ludhiana district (Punjab)

NEW LIFE

It is true that not all the 1,500 or so villages in Ludhiana district have benefitted from the Package Programme to the same extent. In fact there are still a few backward villages in the district. This is mainly due to the lack of sufficient Extension staff, the inability of farmers to grasp new methods of cultivation, and difficulties of supplying fertilizers, seeds and pesticides to outlying farms. Nevertheless; there is no denying the fact that most of the 70,000 farm families of Ludhiana district, are now keen on making the best use of the Extension services provided under the Programme. They have come to recognise the benefits of modern methods of farming, and there is a growing demand for more power, more fertilizers and for expert guidance. There is a new spirit of hope and achievement, and old values are now changing fast. No longer is the status of a farmer judged by the area of land he has. It is now a question of pumping sets, tubewells and tractors—of how much fertilizer a farmer puts into his land, and how much grain he gets out of it. The new values are breathing new life into the villages. Young men stay in the village even after completing their college education to till and manage the farms. This is particularly evident in families which own tractors and other modern farming equipment.

The Intensive Agricultural District Programme has succeeded in increasing significantly the area, yield and production of such major crops as wheat and groundnuts in Ludhiana district. The cumulative economic gain during the last three years from two crops alone has been estimated over Rs. 12.5 crores. This is quite a substantial income when compared with an expenditure of Rs. 40 lakhs excluding loans, incurred on the Package Programme. The total production of wheat in the district during the third year of the Package Programme was higher than the production in 1960-61. The average yield per acre also increased from 16.9 maunds to 23.7 maunds. And this was in spite of the bad seasons for the wheat crop. The story about groundnuts is still more heartening. The area under the crop increased by 59 per cent; the yield per acre by 41 per cent; and production by about 125 per cent. In 1963-64, groundnut alone fetched for Ludhiana farmers Rs. 3.56 crores. All this is reflected in the progressively increasing return for the farmers in the district which is estimated to have risen by about 73 per cent since the Package Programme was introduced.

WEST GODAVAR

THE INTENSIVE Agricultural District Programme, popularly known as the 'Package Programme' was launched with the Rabi season 1960 in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh. This programme envisages concentration of efforts in an intensified manner in promising areas to get immediate gains in increasing farm production by providing all the essential elements needed for such production, including credit. The programme differs from other production programmes in that even though many of the factors contributing towards production are known they are not simultaneously made available. But in this programme steps are taken to provide all these factors simultaneously coupled, with pooling of scientific advice in different branches. The programme is for a period of five years covering all the major crops in the 25 Blocks that are functioning in the District and it is to be extended to other Blocks. The estimated expenditure for the five-year period, excluding credit, is Rs. 1.46 crores. Simultaneous with the launching of the programme, repair to drains was taken up and the expenditure for this is met out of State funds.

COORDINATED EFFORTS

The essential supplies for the programme such as improved seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and fungicides, implements, advance of credit based on farm production plans are effected through the cooperatives situated at bullock cart distance to the cultivators in the programme area. The services provide an intensive coordinated effort by all Specialists provided at the district level and extension workers at Block level in achieving better production through the communication of technical know-how, demonstrations and other information aids. The programme is guided from the Centre by the Directorate of Extension and the Ford Foundation. At the State level, there is a Coordination Committee comprising Heads of Development Departments, an officer of Reserve Bank of India, and the Chairman, Zilla Parishad of West Godavari District. This Committee coordinates the activities of all the departments and reviews the progress and chalks out the programme.

At the District level, the District Collector with the assistance of the Project Officer, is responsible for implementing the programme and coordinating the activities of the several departments, panchayat samitis and cooperative institutions. A Standing Committee of the Zilla Parishad reviews the progress and assists in the implementation of the programme. At the Block level the programme is implemented by the Panchayat Samiti. At the village level, there is a committee consisting of the President of the Panchayat, president or Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies, some progressive cultivators, Village Level Worker and the Extension Officers. They will prepare the village committee lists after scrutiny of farm plans and communicate to the cooperative societies for effecting the supply of farmers' requisites. They will also supervise the use of seed, manure, insecticides and fungicides and in the adoption of improved practices developed for each of the crops taken up under the programme. They also assess the increased production attained by conducting test harvests in different localities of the village and furnish the details to the panchayat samitis.

EVALUATION OF RESULTS

There is a separate evaluation section in the Intensive Agricultural District Programme working under the control of the Director of Bureau of Economics and Statistics. The analysis and evaluation of the programme consists of conducting resources and bench mark survey at the commencement of the programme followed by assessment survey carried out at successive crop seasons and undertaking of special studies in operational and analytical problems arising in the

ARCHES AHEAD

course of the implementation of the programme. These surveys are guided by the Statistical Adviser, Institute of Agricultural Research Statistics, New Delhi.

The total cropped area in the district is 12 lakh acres and the major crops rice, sugarcane, chillies, banana, tobacco, fruits and vegetables and groundnut in paddy fallows—these crops occupying an area of 9.66 lakh acres. Nine lakh acres out of the 12 lakh acres of cropped area is irrigated. There are 415 cooperative credit societies and 250 cooperative supply depots situated at short distances from villages. The West Godavari District Cooperative Marketing Federation acts as the wholesaler for all the retail cooperative societies.

In Rabi season 1960, 40 per cent of the area under paddy and 20 per cent under other major crops was taken up under the programme in 20 Blocks and this was extended to cover the area by kharif season last year.

With the technical guidance given by the District Specialists and Extension staff at Block and Village level, many of the cultivators have adopted improved agricultural practices. The impact of the programme can be seen in the utilization of improved seed of paddy which went up to 33,826 maunds in 1963 as against 20,000 maunds just before the programme period. The use of nitrogenous fertilizers in terms of ammonium sulphate which stood at 14,470 Metric tons prior to the programme has gone up to 40,000 tons. The utilization of superphosphate prior to package was confined to Rabi paddy only. For the entire district only 500 Metric tons were utilised. The consumption of superphosphate by the end of 1962-63 was 20,000 Metric tons. The area covered under plant protection has increased to over 3 lakh acres which is three times more than that of the period prior to package.

The acceptance and adoption of the package of improved agricultural practices, technical guidance given by the Extension staff, supply of farmers requisites in time and active participation of the village institutions has resulted in stepping up of yields in all the major crops taken up under the programme. Rice occupies the major area of over 9 lakh acres while all the rest of the crops put together cover one-tenth of the area under rice.

STEADY INCREASE OF PADDY

The average yield of rice per acre based on the three year average prior to the introduction of the programme was 1,179 lbs. After the programme was launched, there has been a steady increase in the yield of paddy. The average yields of rice per acre for the entire area in this district in 1960-61, 1961-62, 1962-63 and 1963 Kharif have shown marked increase at 1,227, 1,478, 1,371 and 1,531 lbs. respectively. The increase in yield of other crops in the programme has ranged between 16 per cent to 30 per cent over the average yield of the District prior to the programme.

The additional production of rice for the district during the year 1960-61 to 1962-63 put together was recorded with 1,96,992 Metric tons over the production of 1957-58 to 1959-60 put together. The additional production of rice for the District during the years 1960-61 to 1962-63 put together after deducting the additional production due to the increase in area during these 3 years over that of the previous year's areas was recorded at 1,37,014 Metric tons. Up to the end of March 1963 an amount of Rs. 19.26 lakhs was spent for the programme which includes equipment costing about Rs. 2 lakhs. The value of additional production of rice alone is Rs. 719.32 lakhs. For every one rupee spent on the scheme the return is Rs. 37.

COOPERATIVE PROSPERITY

K. S. Ramamurthi

Maharashtra Sugar Factory

GANGANAGAR is a small township in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra. It is linked by an excellent road with Sangli, twenty miles away. Beyond the unending row of trees are hundreds of acres of cultivated fields, an area truly blessed by nature. Ganganagar is a new township which owes its origin to the cooperative sugar factory round which it has grown It is named after the Pancha Ganga river flowing nearby. And yet, only six years ago the area was a wilderness. Today, it is a bustling, busy township, served with electricity. The surrounding villages have also prospered and every village house is electrified.

COOPERATIVE EFFORT

Built over a 140-acre plot of land the factory came into being in 1958. It is the creation of the farmers in the surrounding villages. The area of operation spreads over five taluks comprising 84 villages. Thirteen of the villages are in the Belgaum district of Mysore while the rest are in Maharashtra. The Co-operative has 2,286 members, of whom more than 2,000 hold up to three shares each. There is an upper limit to the individual holding of shares, so that the rich farmer cannot buy up the factory. It is pre-eminently a factory owned by small farmers.

The members of the cooperative hold about five to six thousand acres of land, which is under sugar-cane. The land is still owned by the farmers. The only change is that in addition they own the sugar factory. In short, they have become agriculturists-*cum*-industrialists. Before the co-operative was born, the farmers had to take their produce to a privately-owned sugar mill and had to sell their crop at the rates fixed by the mill. The cane had to be delivered at the gate of the factory at the expense of the farmer. Often the illiterate farmer was denied his due. There were malpractices in weighing and counting. Prices too varied. The average farmer sold his produce immediately after the harvest, when the price was low, while the richer farmers could wait until prices went up.

FARMERS PRODUCE BEST CROP

Now all this has changed. The cooperative sees to it that the farmer produces the best crop under the guidance of Agricultural Supervisors and other technical staff. The factory supplies manure to the farmers on credit, and farming is done on scientific lines. When the crop is ready for cutting, samples are tested in the laboratory attached to the factory which does the harvesting and transports the produce at its own cost to the factory. The farmer is given a receipt for the cane supplied by him and he can draw advances to the extent of 80 to 85 per cent of the approximate value of the produce sold to the factory. At the end of the year, a final statement of accounts is prepared and each farmer member is paid the balance due to him after deducting the advance already drawn, along with a share of the profits.

The minimum price of cane is fixed by the Government but the factory has been able to pay more. The farmer's share of the profits is in proportion to the number of shares he owns, subject to statutory provisions. The maximum dividend allowed by the Government is six per cent. A farmer-member owning a plot of one acre and one share in the paid-up capital of the factory makes on an average 1,000 rupees a year. There are a few educated farmers who depend entirely on farming and the factory for their livelihood. One of them with a four-acre plot has been able to earn on an average, Rs. 7,000 a year, while some farmers make as much as Rs. 3,000 per acre.

The factory has a crushing capacity of 1,000 tons of sugar-cane a day. The daily average production is 1,200 bags of 100 quintals each of white sugar. It has about 1,000 workers on its rolls. Half of them are employed for the season while the rest are permanent employees.

There is a row of neat little houses built by the factory for the workers.

MAXIMUM RECOVERY

Operational efficiency has increased steadily since the inception of the factory in 1958. The Chief Chemist of the factory has said that the sugar content of the cane in India is about 15 per cent, while the maximum that can be recovered is 12½ per cent. This is also the figure of recovery in leading sugar-cane producing countries like Cuba. The percentage of recovery in the Ganganagar factory was 9.10 in 1958, which has now reached the maximum of 12½ per cent.

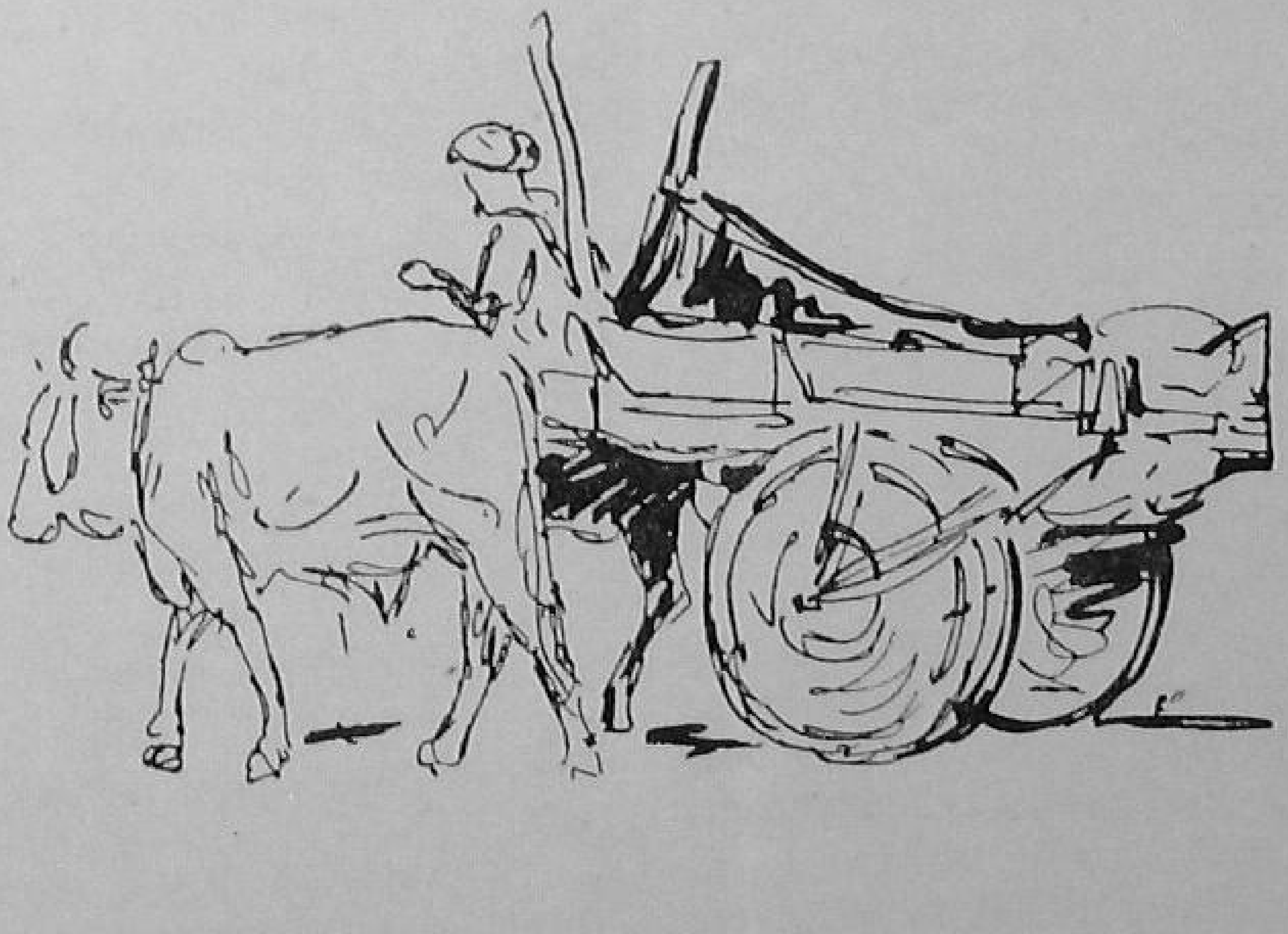
BETTER CULTIVATION

In order to get more sugar from every ton of sugarcane it is important that the quality of the cane should improve by better cultivation. The sugar content of cane grown in Cuba is about 18 per cent as against 15 per cent in India. The factory has been trying to increase this and runs a seed nursery to grow several varieties of seed for distribution to farmer-members. The seed nursery also has a demonstration plot where new methods of cultivation are tried out to increase the yield per acre. These efforts have borne fruit to some extent, and the production on certain plots of land is as much as 60 tons per acre, against the average yield in the area of 38 tons. In 1958-59, for example, the yield per acre was 18 tons, which increased to 26.48 tons in the following year, and to 30—69 tons in 1960-61. There was a slight drop in the following year; but in 1962-63 the figure again rose to 33.13 and last year it reached 38 tons. In striking contrast, the average yield in the fields not under the supervision of the factory is 27 tons per acre.

NEED FOR IRRIGATION FACILITIES

To solve the problem of improved irrigation facilities, the factory has pursuaded farmers to organise themselves into cooperative lift-irrigation societies. There is one such society of 234 members in the village of Udgao in Chirod taluk, some fifteen miles from Ganganagar, which has an irrigation pump operated by electricity. The Society collects Rs. 200 a year from every farmer as irrigation charges. This has brought 750 acres of land under irrigation. The yield from this area has been steadily increasing, and in some cases it is as much as sixty tons per acre. The factory proposes to organise a network of forty such irrigation societies at a cost of a crore of rupees.

The factory plans to expand the daily sugarcane crushing capacity to three thousand tons a day, and to promote ancillary industries based on such by-products as molasses, bagasse and pressmud. Molasses can be converted into alcohol, bagasse into newsprint and pressmud into wax. All these by-products are now more or less wasted. When the by-products are fully exploited the factory hopes to increase its profits substantially resulting in more income to its farmer-members. As it is, it makes a net profit of about four lakh rupees on a paid-up capital of about Rs. 38 lakhs. A fifth of the net profits goes into the Reserve Fund each year.



APPLIED NUTRITION PROGRAMME

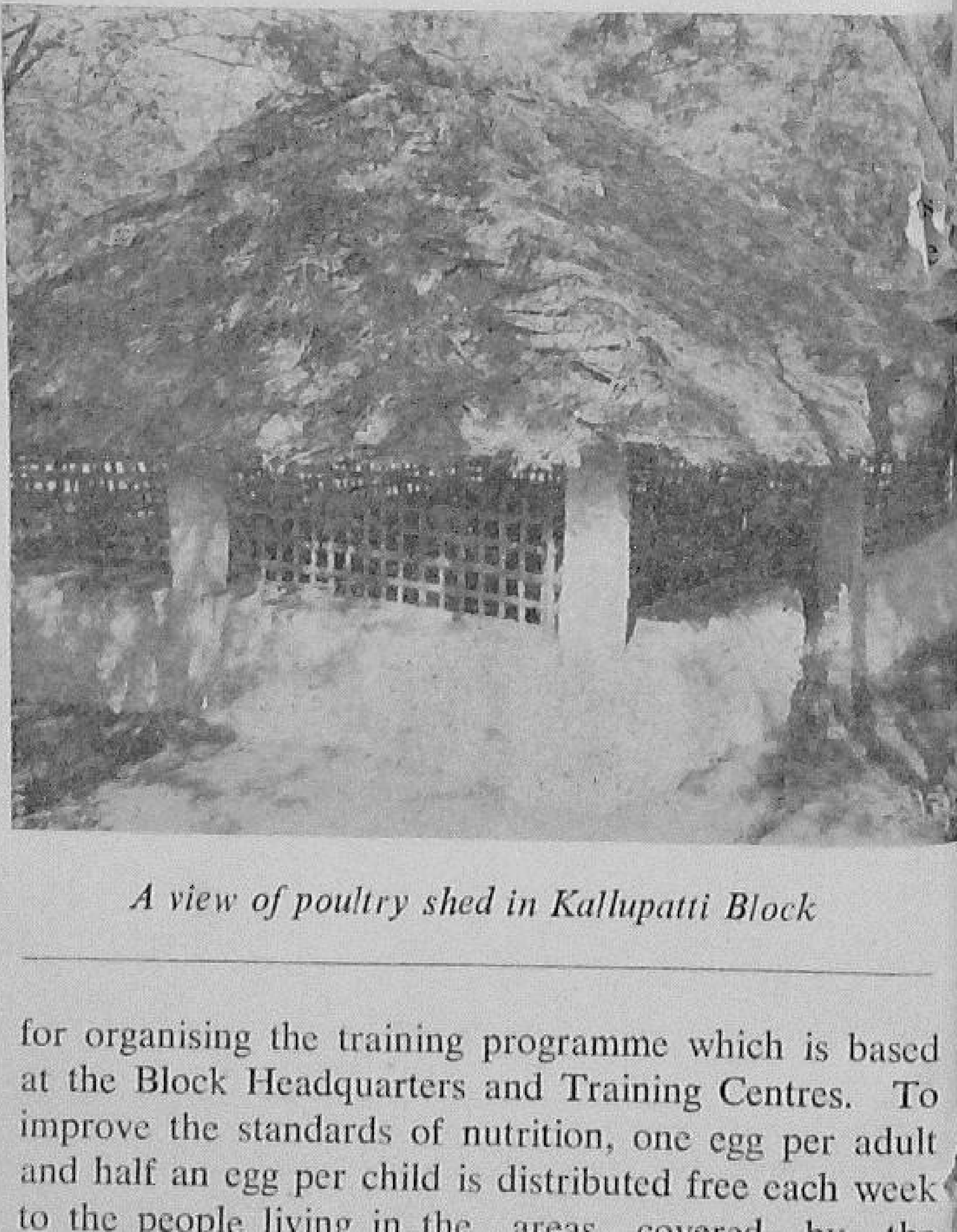
Kallupatti's Outstanding Work

V. A. Vasudevaraju

THE APPLIED Nutrition Programme was taken up in Madras State in seven selected Blocks attached to the Rural Extension Training Centres and Home Science Wings in August 1962. The programme aims at mobilising the primary producers in particular, and the people living in the Block generally, for participation in it. Of the four aspects of the programme—vegetable gardening, supply of milk, development of fisheries and poultry—special emphasis is laid on poultry development.

THE SCHEME

Large poultry units to serve as Extension Centres have been set up at the Block headquarters. At the Village level, poultry units have been started on the basis of 60 hens and 6 cocks for every 2,000 or less of the population. For the construction of poultry houses in the villages, local materials have been used largely. The deep litter system is followed in all the village units for which equipment is being supplied by UNICEF while the State Government provides buildings, staff, birds and feed. When the units that have already been set up start yielding revenue, the Panchayats will take over responsibility for running them. At the Gram Sevak headquarters, 140 incubators have been provided. Also, day-old chicks and eggs are supplied to villagers at concessional rates for increasing their stocks. Two persons in each village are trained in poultry keeping to take care of village units. At the same time free training is imparted to those who wish to take up poultry farming on their own. The Department of Animal Husbandry is responsible for organising the training programme which is based at the Block Headquarters and Training Centres. To improve the standards of nutrition, one egg per adult and half an egg per child is distributed free each week to the people living in the areas covered by the programme.



A view of poultry shed in Kallupatti Block

POULTRY DEVELOPMENT

The poultry development programme has so far yielded encouraging results in the State. But, the most outstanding work has been done in the Kallupatti

Block, where the Poultry Extension Centre was started in September 1962. Following a survey conducted by the Centre in all the Panchayats in the Block, eighty-one young men were trained for ten days in poultry keeping. Fifty stock owners were also given training for a week. Forty-two Village Units have been started in the 41 Panchayats in the Block. At the time of setting up these units, 1,698 hens and 156 cocks were supplied to the Units. The village units are equipped with automatic feeders and waterers and they are fully ventilated. All the units have adopted the deep litter system for which the material used is groundnut shells, paddy husk or sawdust.

In the very first year, encouraging results were obtained, and more than 75,000 eggs were produced. Of these, nearly 70,000 were distributed to the people, and over 3,000 were exchanged for hatching. In addition to this, 1,200 chicks were hatched by the village units themselves. The Centre produced more than 12,000 eggs, and hatched over 1,500 chicks.

SPECIAL FEATURES

The programme, as it is being implemented in Kallupatti, has certain special features. It is interesting to note that almost all the village units in the Block are situated near schools, village tanks and temples—places frequented by the people, so that they serve as demonstration centres. Weekly visits by the technical staff facilitate better and more effective technical guidance, particularly in taking measures to protect the birds from disease. The units maintain a number of records which make the collection of statistics easy. The Balsevikas, Mathersangams (Mahila Mandals) and the women workers in the Block take an active interest in the distribution of eggs, and keep to propagate the scheme, which is increasing in popularity.

IMPACT OF THE PROGRAMME

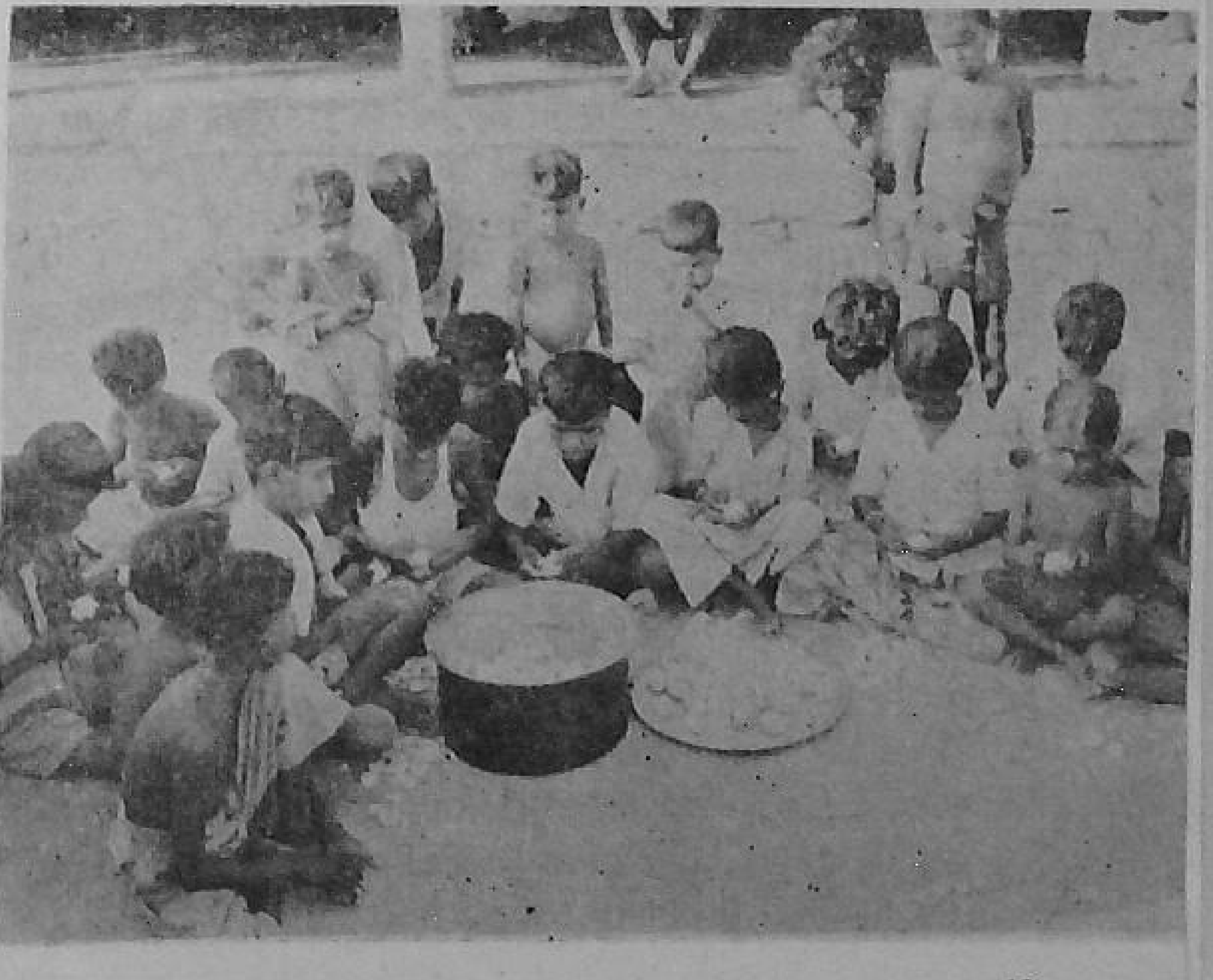
Perhaps the most important effect of the scheme is that the deep litter system has begun to catch the imagination of the people and more people are adopting it in their homes. The demand for eggs for hatching on an exchange basis has also increased considerably. The beneficiaries, who were reluctant to get the eggs when the programme was launched due to some misconceptions are now changing their food habits. In fact, the attendance at distribution centres is increasing.

The people now realise that the disease of birds can be checked by preventive and curative measures. As a result of this growing awareness, greater use is being made of the services of technical staff. Private poultry units are coming up in an around Kallupatti. One of the breeders, with a *pucca* shed, is hoping to raise nearly 5,000 birds a year. Another breeder has started a unit with about twenty birds and has introduced the deep litter system. Caste restrictions too are slowly disappearing because of the economic gains from poultry farming.

The implementation of the programme for poultry development in Kallupatti is making more and more demands on the technical staff. The experience gained during the first year and the problems faced by the staff offer valuable lessons for the future. Poultry development is making headway in the realisation of the objective of the Applied Nutrition Programme.

Young chicks at feeding time in a poultry farm in Kallupatti Block in Madras State

School children taking out the shells of boiled eggs before eating



FROM HERE AND THERE

FRUIT CULTIVATION IN MAHARASHTRA

A crash programme for increasing fruit production in Maharashtra has been taken up by the State Government. The programme, which will be spread over the next eighteen months, provides for the setting up of four nursery orchards, each covering 20 acres. These nurseries will grow and distribute banana, grape, orange and lime saplings during the Fourth Plan period. The total expenditure on the scheme will be about Rs. 2 lakhs.

Another programme is to be launched shortly to promote the export of fruit to other States. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 13 lakhs. Loans are to be advanced to growers for intensive cultivation of fruits and also to cooperative societies for the purchase of cold-storage vans. Four centres have been selected for the intensive cultivation of banana, mango, orange and lime-fruit. In the next eighteen months, an area of 900 acres is proposed to be covered under the scheme. The State Government has also decided to establish fruit nurseries on all seed farms where adequate irrigation facilities are available.

* * *

PANCHAYAT BHAWAN

Tanda Panchayat in the Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh has a new building of its own. The building, which will house the offices of the Panchayat, has been built at a cost of Rs. 5,000.

* * *

INTENSIVE CULTIVATION

The Sutahata Development Block No. 1 in Midnapore district in West Bengal is to be brought under the intensive cultivation scheme this year. Before the launching of the measure, a two-day Training Camp was recently held for the benefit of progressive farmers in the area. The training programme included, besides lectures, practical demonstration by experts of scientific methods of cultivation. The trainees also discussed the special problems of agriculture in the area.

COOP. LOANS

The Bombay State Cooperative Land Mortgage Bank had advanced loans amounting to nine crore rupees to agriculturists during the 1963-64 Cooperative Year to help them improve irrigation facilities. Of this amount, more than four crore rupees were spent on digging over 30,000 wells. The amount spent on the repair of old wells amounted to twenty-nine lakh rupees. The balance of over Rs. 4.40 crores were given for the purchase of oil engine and electric motors for pumping sets.

* * *

WAR ON CORRUPTION

Sarpanches, Pradhans and Zila Pramukhs in Rajasthan will help the State Government in the prevention and detection of corruption in the rural areas. The State Government has asked them to cooperate actively in preventing corruption. The Chairmen of Panchayati Raj Institutions have been asked to report cases of corruption either to the District Collector or to the State Government.

* * *

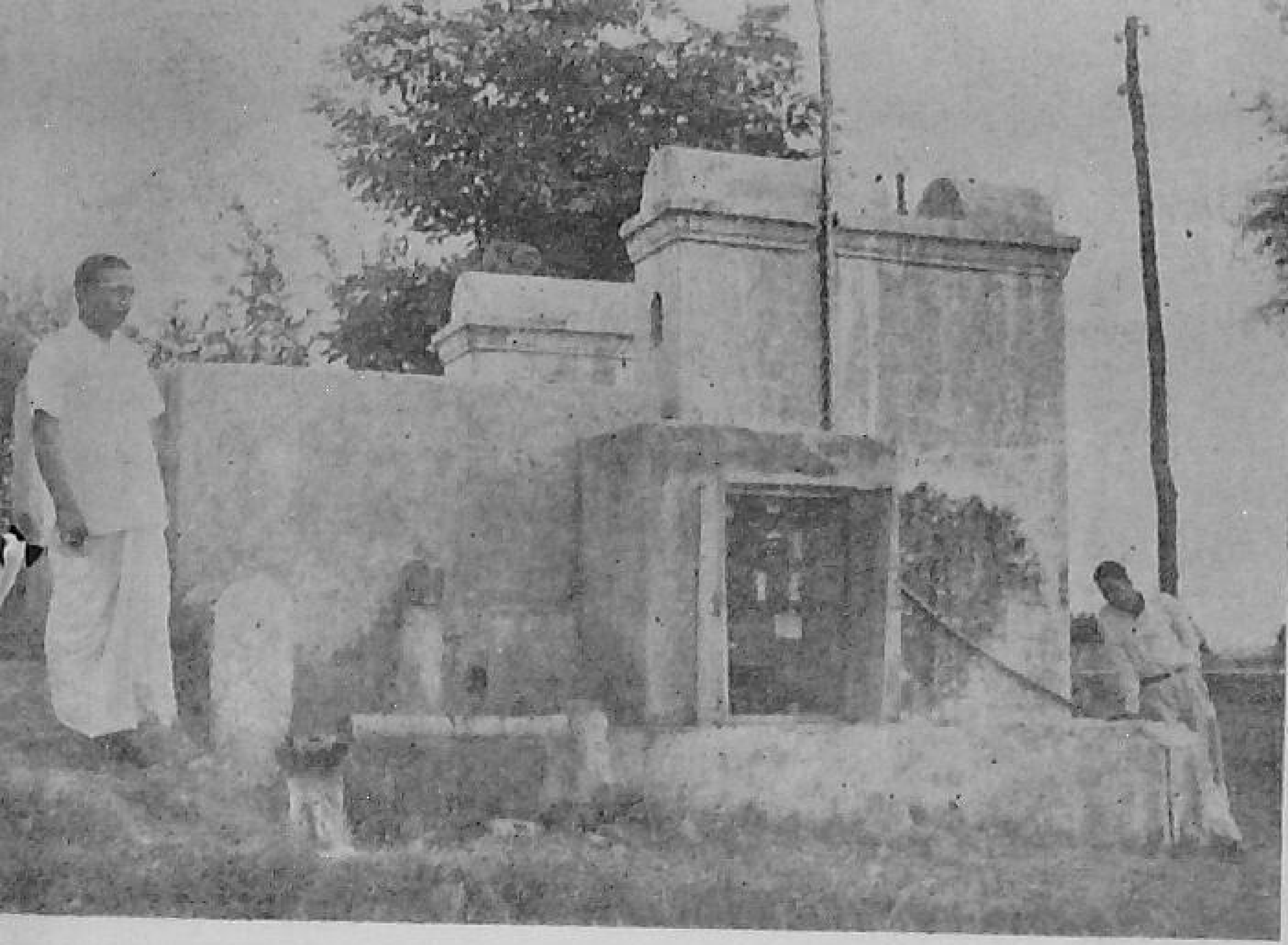
BEST VILLAGE CONTEST

The village of Hiwarkhed in Telhara Block of Akola District has been adjudged the best village in Maharashtra for the year 1963-64. In the competition of the most outstanding Village Level Worker for the year, the pride of place has gone to Shri P. L. Mahajan of Nagpur Block. He is followed by Shri L. S. Nagothe, Gram Sewak of Telhara Block; while Shri N. B. Kadam of Khed Block has secured the third prize. All the prize winners are to be awarded certificates of merit.

* * *

CAMP FOR ANCHALIK PARISHAD MEMBERS

An Orientation Training Camp for members of the Anchalik Parishads of Darjeeling Sadar and Kurseong Sub-division in West Bengal was held last November. The Camp was the first to be organised in the hill areas of the State.



Water being pumped out of a masonry well at the rate of 4,000 gallons per hour in a U.P. village

FOOD DRIVE IN BONGAON

IN WEST BENGAL, the Bongaon Block on the Indo-Pakistan border, has launched a drive to increase production of paddy and jute, which are grown extensively in the area. So far this year, more than 10,000 kilograms of *Aus* paddy seeds and over 1,300 kg. of jute seeds have been distributed to farmers in the area. In the Kharif season, over 8,600 kg. of paddy seeds have been distributed besides, seeds for green manuring. During the same period, fertilizers were made available to the cultivators through the Bongaon Central Cooperative Marketing Society. Also, the Central Co-operative Bank has given loans amounting to more than Rs. 8 lakhs. Adequate plant protection measures have been taken over an area of 3,700 acres under paddy and jute crops.

* * *

USE MORE FERTILIZERS

THE UTTAR Pradesh Government is to distribute five lakh tons of fertilizers to farmers in the State during the current financial year in a concerted bid to increase food production. Till the end of September last year, about 2.34 lakh tons were distributed. This is an increase of 22 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous year.

* * *

FISHERIES WEEK IN MADRAS

IN MADRAS State a "Fisheries Week" is to be observed every year, to spotlight the need to develop pisciculture. The celebrations are aimed at (1) increasing fish production by adopting better methods of fishing, preserving and marketing, (2) undertaking propaganda against destructive methods of fishing, and (3) popularising welfare measures for the benefit of fishermen and their families. The celebrations in each district are to be arranged in or near a locality with a large population of fishermen.

* * *

POULTRY-FEED IN U.P.

A SCHEME for the supply of balanced poultry-feed to poultry breeders has been launched by the Uttar Pradesh Government. A sum of Rs. 7.76 lakhs is to be spent on the scheme during the last three years of the Third Five Year Plan. It will operate at the State Livestock Farm at Babugarh in Meerut district.

The World Food Programme is to help the Scheme by giving station-wagons, and 2,000 metric tons of whole maize, free of cost. The maize will be mixed with other ingredients and compounded into a balanced mixture, which will be sold to poultry breeders. The State Government has sanctioned Rs. 2.55 lakhs for the purchase of 2,000 tons of other ingredients, installation of feed-grinders and weighing machines.

* * *

KHANDWA BLOCK MARCHES ON

IN SEPTEMBER, about six tons of chemical fertilizers were distributed and fruit-growing trees planted in an area of 35 acres in Khandwa Block in the East Nimar District of Madhya Pradesh. Besides this, ten acres of land was brought under vegetable cultivation. In order to increase irrigation facilities in the Block, one electric and one oil-engine pump were installed. During the month 158 heads of cattle were treated for various ailments and four cattle sheds were constructed.

* * *

CROP COMPETITION RESULTS

THE MAHARASHTRA Government has announced prizes amounting to Rs. 10,500 to the first three winners in each crop at the State-level Crop Competition for Rabi wheat, Rabi jowar and Kharif jowar conducted during 1963-64.

In the Rabi wheat competition the first prize has been won by Shri Baburao Sukhdeo Patil, of Bijorese in Baglau taluk of Nasik district for the highest yield per acre of nearly 26 quintals. In Rabi jowar, Shri Sitaram Ekanath Dhumal of Kawathali in Pandharpur taluk of Sholapur district won the first prize with an yield per acre of nearly 29 quintals; while in Kharif jowar, Shri Siddhappa Mahadeoappa Jatkar of Nandrakoli in Buldhana district has been placed first with an yield of nearly 42 quintals.

* * *

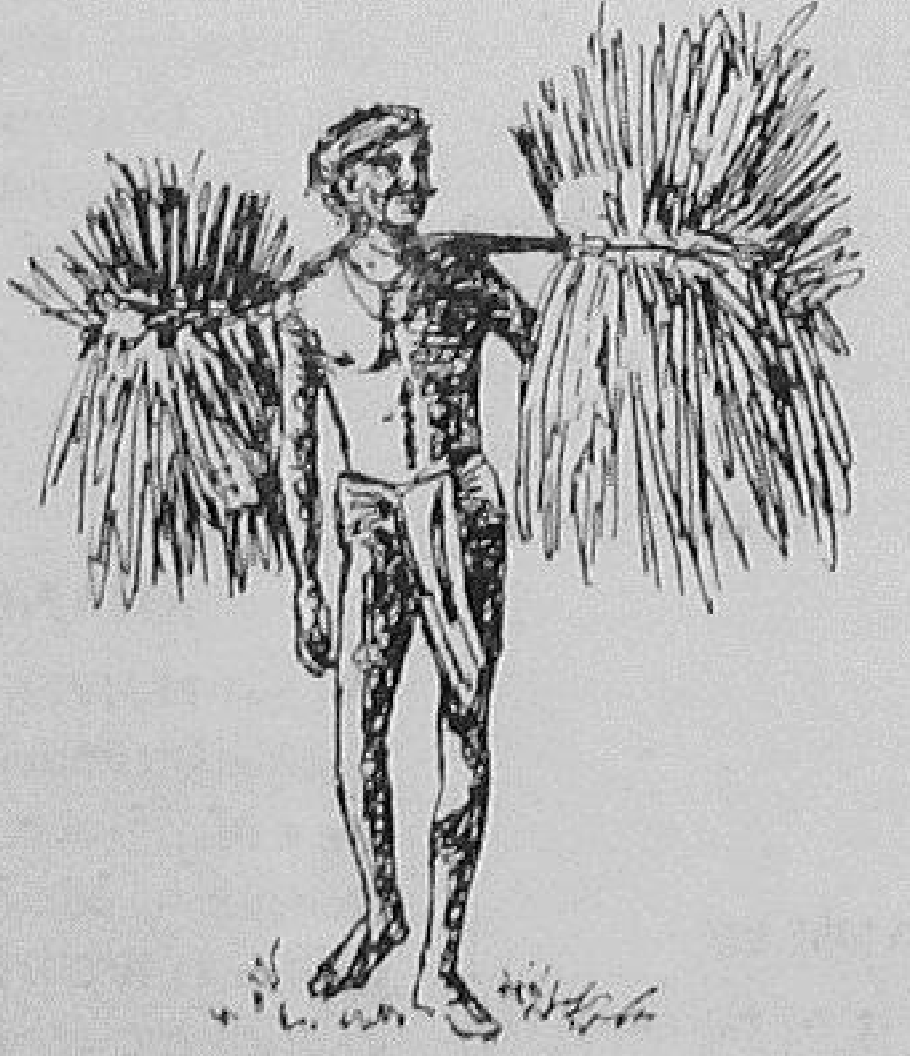
SUGARCANE CROP COMPETITION

IN THE All-India Regional Sugarcane Crop competitions organised by the Indian Sugarcane Committee for the year 1963-64, Maharashtra has won the largest number of prizes in the Southern Zone. The State has been awarded the running silver shield as a special award. Shri Bhaudas Vamanrao Jagtap of Pondadare village in Baramati taluk of Poona district has won the first prize of Rs. 2,500 and a medal for growing 365.53 tonnes of sugarcane per hectare.

ALL-WOMEN'S PANCHAYAT

Madhya Pradesh has the unique distinction of having the first Panchayat in the State composed entirely of women. This is the Bhuibandh Gram Panchayat in Sohagpur Block, which has just returned 15 women to fill all the seats in the Panchayat. Of the 15 members, eleven have filled "general" seats, three have been elected to seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes and one to fill a seat reserved for Scheduled Castes. Only women candidates filed nominations, and all of them were elected unopposed.

The story of Bhuibandh Panchayat may be an isolated one today; but it is symbolic of the growing consciousness among rural women of their responsibility in promoting the welfare of the Community. It also indicates an increasing recognition of their status, not only in the family, but as members of society.



Paddy seeding being collected from a seed bed in a village in Package Programme area.

Paddy husking in a village in Doddaballapur Block, Mysore State

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